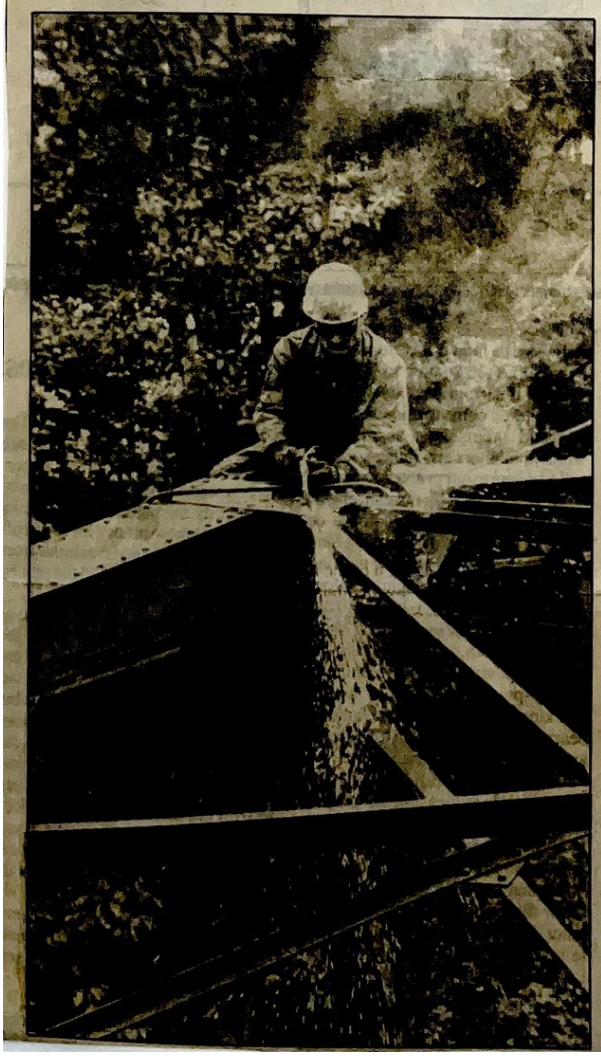

BRIDGE LIFTED INTO HISTORY

WASHOUGAL'S 17TH Street Bridge became history Thursday when contractors working for the Washington Department of Transportation removed the old steel truss span. Over a several hour period, workers cut the bridge loose from its old rock supports. The bridge was then hoisted off its base by a pair of cranes and was steadied by another piece of heavy machinery. Cranes also lowered the old span onto the shore of the Washougal River below. Utilizing cutting torches, workers then set to work slicing the steel into three sections that will be dismantled and sold for scrap. Removal of the old bridge was necessary to make way for a new, wider span that will be constructed on the State Route 140 site. Completion of the construction project is not expected until spring or early summer 1993. (Staff photos by Craig and Chris Clohessy)